

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 6, 2007**

GROUP TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat (the City) has formed an Ad Hoc Environmental Strategy Advisory Group to help develop a Community Environmental Strategy.

In March 2006, the City adopted the following set of Environmental Priorities that form the foundation for a Community Environmental Strategy:

Key Environmental Areas	Environmental Priorities
Land	Planning Standards, Building Standards, Natural Areas, Transportation
Energy	Alternative Energy, Conservation, Education, Civic Leadership, Incentives
Water	Education, Conservation, Water Quality
Waste & Recycling	Education, Incentives / Programs
Air	Civic Leadership, Vehicle Emissions

"The Community Environmental Strategy is being developed in three major steps to address the community's environmental priorities," says Russ Smith, Manager of Environmental Management. "First we will be developing performance measures and targets around Medicine Hat's environmental priorities. Then we will be working to develop programs to assist the community in supporting the environmental priorities and finally we will measure and report on the community's progress towards addressing its priorities.

"The development of an Environmental Strategy for the community will put us on the right track to address the community's environmental priorities and help ensure a more sustainable community for all Medicine Hatters," adds Smith.

The Ad Hoc Environmental Advisory Group has a diverse membership with representation from the Medicine Hat College, Palliser Health Region, Medicine Hat Chamber of Commerce, Palliser Airshed Society, Medicine Hat Industrial Group and the Grasslands Naturalists.

The Advisory Group has been meeting with the City's Environmental Management department on a monthly basis, since late 2006, to provide feedback and assistance in the development of performance measures, targets and programs for Medicine Hat's Community Environmental Strategy.

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Once this work is completed it will be circulated within the community by the City for feedback prior to finalizing a recommendation to City Council.

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